

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 15, 2011

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 13, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 56

Introduced by Assembly Members Hill and Cook

(Principal coauthor: Senator Walters)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Bonilla, Bradford, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Chesbro, Davis, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Furutani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Huber, Hueso, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mansoor, Mitchell, Monning, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

May 5, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 56—Relative to the American flag.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 56, as amended, Hill. Relative to the American flag.

This measure would *recognize the 61st anniversary of National Flag Day*, honor the 51st anniversary of the flying of the current American flag, and would encourage all Californians to celebrate the occasion with appropriate activities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, For more than two centuries, the American flag
2 has been a banner of hope for generation after generation of
3 Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, The flag is a symbol of a country that has grown
5 from 13 colonies to a united nation of 50 sovereign states; and

6 WHEREAS, Continental Congress member Francis Hopkinson
7 designed the first Stars and Stripes. The first flag of the United
8 States was authorized by Congressional Resolution on June 14,
9 1777, resolving that it be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and
10 white, and that the union be 13 white stars in a blue field,
11 representing a new constellation; and

12 WHEREAS, Since the first American flag, several congressional
13 acts and Presidential Executive orders have altered the shape,
14 design, and arrangement of the flag, and allowed for additional
15 stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new
16 state; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1794, Congress passed an act changing the
18 American flag so that it contained 15 stripes and 15 stars; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1818, President Monroe signed legislation
20 requiring that the American flag have 13 stripes and a star for each
21 state in the union. Stars for newly added states would be applied
22 to the flag on July 4 of the following year; and

23 WHEREAS, Flag makers were able to use imaginative designs
24 to accommodate new stars on the flag until 1912, when President
25 Taft issued an Executive order that established rows of stars as the
26 standard design; and

27 *WHEREAS, On June 14, 1885, a 19-year-old Wisconsin*
28 *schoolteacher named Bernard J. Cigrand assigned his students*
29 *essays on the flag and its significance, in commemoration of the*
30 *congressional resolution of 1777; and*

31 *WHEREAS, Cigrand's lifelong effort to bring about national*
32 *recognition of the day culminated in the issuance of a proclamation*
33 *by President Wilson on May 30, 1916, calling for a nationwide*
34 *observance of Flag Day; and*

35 *WHEREAS, In 1949, President Truman signed an act of*
36 *Congress designating the 14th day of June every year as National*
37 *Flag Day; and*

38 WHEREAS, The 48-star American flag, represented by the
39 traditional 13 stripes and six rows of eight stars, was the official
40 flag from 1912 until 1959; and

1 WHEREAS, On January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally granted
2 statehood and the 49-star American flag, represented by the
3 traditional 13 stripes and seven rows of seven stars, became the
4 official flag when it was raised over Independence Hall on July 4,
5 1959; and

6 WHEREAS, Hawaii became this country's 50th state on August
7 21, 1959, requiring that a new 50-star flag be designed as the
8 official American flag; and

9 WHEREAS, President Eisenhower unveiled the new 50-star
10 flag on August 21, 1959, at a ceremony commemorating Hawaii's
11 statehood; and

12 WHEREAS, The 50-star flag, the current Stars and Stripes,
13 became the official American flag on July 4, 1960, with a design
14 of 13 stripes and 50 stars, represented by five rows of six stars
15 alternating with four rows of five stars; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite the numerous designs of the American
17 flag, they have all stood for the United States Constitution, the
18 American way of life, our collective past achievements, and our
19 dreams for the future; and

20 WHEREAS, On June 14, 2011, *National Flag Day*, the 50-star
21 American flag ~~will celebrate~~ *celebrated* its 51st anniversary as the
22 official Stars and Stripes, representing the longest period that any
23 fixed flag design has been used; now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature *recognizes the 61st*
26 *anniversary of National Flag Day*, honors the 51st anniversary of
27 the flying of the current American flag, and encourages all
28 Californians to celebrate the occasion with appropriate activities;
29 and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly provide copies
31 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.